

**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated December 13, 2005, has been received and carefully considered. Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application.

I. THE ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the present application contains claims directed to two patentably distinct inventions: claims 1-10 drawn to a method for accommodating electronic components on a multilayer signal routing device; and claims 11-15 drawn to a multilayer signal routing device.

The Applicant hereby respectfully traverses this election/restriction requirement, with amendment, and hereby requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this election/restriction requirement. As required, however, the Applicant provisionally elects claims 1-10 for prosecution in the event that this election/restriction requirement is made final.

Under 35 U.S.C. § 121, restriction is appropriate if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application. As set forth in MPEP § 802.01, inventions are independent if there is no disclosed relationship between the

two or more subjects disclosed, and inventions are distinct if two or more subjects as disclosed are capable of separate manufacture, use, or sale as claimed.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner attempts to explain how the invention defined by claims 1-10 are distinct from the invention defined by claims 11-15. However, the Examiner fails to explain how the invention defined by claims 1-10 is independent from the invention defined by claims 11-15. Indeed, the Examiner acknowledges that the invention defined by claims 1-10 is related to the invention defined by claims 11-15, and vice versa. Thus, the invention defined by claims 1-10 and the invention defined by claims 11-15 are related and are not independent from each other. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the election/restriction requirement is improper, and the withdrawal of such election/restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

## II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to

expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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